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REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
OF THE
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
RELATIVE TO THE
PRESENT PUBLIC SCHOOL LAWS.

.....
READ FEBRUARY 1, 1849, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED
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TRENTON:
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1849.

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REPORT.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred that part of the Governor's message, which relates to the subject of public schools, and also several memorials from different sections of the state, praying for various changes and modifications of our present school law, have taken these matters into careful consideration, and would respectfully submit the following REPORT :

That the perpetuity of our republican institutions depends upon the intelligence and morality of the people, and that it becomes the legislature to give a profound and serious attention to all those plans which will serve to strengthen the foundations of our government, by encouraging the moral and intellectual training of the rising generation. The committee rejoice to perceive that the people are awakening to the importance of popular education, and that in some sections of the state, they are cheerfully submitting to the imposition of heavy taxes, by special laws, in order that the schoolmaster may be brought to the doors of the humblest citizen. They look forward with hope and confidence to the time

when, by the wise co-operation of the legislature, with the healthful progress of public opinion, the opportunities to acquire a thorough education will be placed within the reach of all the children of the state. Your committee, however, are averse to taking any step upon this important subject, or recommending any innovations, which would be in advance of the popular sentiment. They believe that more good will be accomplished at present, by a gradual than by a sudden change of the existing laws, and that the cause of education will be retarded, unless the action of the legislature will meet with a hearty response from the great mass of the people. They have, therefore, carefully considered the memorials from different sections of the state, praying for a large increase of the School Fund, and for the removal of all restrictions from the townships, as to the amount of money to be raised for school purposes; and whilst they believe that these memorialists have been prompted by the most philanthropic motives, finding in the hearts and desires of the committee the warmest sympathy, they do not deem it advisable at this time to comply fully with their requests, but to respectfully suggest the following changes in the present law :

1. That the sum of ten thousand dollars be paid by the State Treasurer, from any moneys in the treasury of the state, to the Trustees of the School Fund, to be appropriated by them, in addition to the thirty thousand dollars which they are already required to appropriate, out of the annual income of the School Fund for the support of public schools.

2. That the fourth section of the " Act to establish public schools," be so far amended as to authorize the inhabitants of the several townships of this state to

raise, by taxation or otherwise, any sum of money for the support of public schools that they may think proper; *provided*, such sum shall not be more than four times the amount received from the state, through the board of chosen freeholders.

3. That no township shall be permitted to draw its apportionment of the School Fund, which neglects or refuses to raise at least an equal amount by taxation or otherwise.

4. That the ninth section of the "Act to establish public schools," be so far amended as to confer upon the Trustees of the School Districts, the authority to appropriate so much of the money raised for school purposes, as may be necessary for heating, renting and repairing school houses.

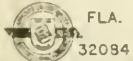
JNO. T. NIXON.	} <i>Committee.</i>
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